

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 to 23.

On page 2 of the Official Action, it is stated that Applicants have not filed a certified copy of their Japanese priority application filed on September 29, 2004. However, please see the declaration of this application which does not mention any such priority application.

In addition, paragraph 12) of the Office Action Summary states that all certified copies have been received and also in the previous Official Action it was stated that all certified copies have been received.

Still further, in the Notice of Acceptance of the application into U.S. National Stage prosecution dated January 18, 2005, it is stated that the priority documents filed on September 29, 2004 have been received. This is the date that the application was filed.

In sum, it is considered that all certified copies of the priority applications on which the present application is based have been received by the USPTO.

Claims 1 to 23 have been rejected as anticipated by JP 2002-1211374.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This reference is, in fact, JP 2002-121374 with a filing date of April 23, 2002. It is antedated by the filing of the Japanese priority applications of Applicants:

- (1) Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-106488 filed on April 9, 2002
- (2) Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-110084 filed on April 12, 2002.

Verified English translations of these Japanese priority applications are enclosed.

Accordingly, rejection of the claims as anticipated by JP 2002-121374 is untenable.

Similar comments are applicable with regard to the rejection of claims 7 to 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over this reference.

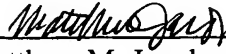
No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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